



WHERE DO WE BELONG

Advent Series

Where the
Wild Things
Are

First Lutheran Church Kirkland

*First Lutheran Church - Putting Christ First
Kirkland, IL - Est. December 26, 1873*

*Saturday, December 9, 2023
With Readings for Second Sunday of Advent*

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A WARM WELCOME TO ALL who are worshiping with us today! We hope that the service will be a joy and blessing to you. Please complete the black friendship register and pass it down the pew. Then after worship, you're encouraged to introduce yourself to anyone you haven't met.

THE SERVICE BEGINS

P We begin this service IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER:

C Dear heavenly Father, you comforted your people with the promise that you would send us a savior;

P AND OF THE SON:

C Come Lord Jesus, the Son of God! Come in power and glory and victory! Come quickly, and save your people;

P AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

C Come upon us, O Spirit of power and might. Breathe on us your life-giving breath, that we may watch and wait for Christ's return. Amen

SONG: "Oh Come, All Ye Faithful"

LBW 45

WE CONFESS

P With the words of Isaiah and the Psalms, we confess our sins and our grief, and we hear the comfort of the Lord.

C All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field: the grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. *Isaiah 40*

How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land? If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right-hand wither! Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy. *Psalms 137*

WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION

P The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever! Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God! Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry unto her that her punishment is over, that her guilt is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. Behold, the Lord is coming to you. He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. *Isaiah 40*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of your only begotten Son, that by his coming we may be enabled to serve you with pure minds; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰Behold, the LORD God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

P The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 85 (Read responsively by half verse)

P. 254

SECOND READING

2 Peter 3:8-14

⁸Do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and

the works that are done on it will be exposed. ¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

P The word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, ³the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" ⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P The Gospel of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

SERMON: "WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE"

SONG: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist Cry"

LBW 36

or "Prepare the Royal Highway"

LBW 26

STATEMENT OF FAITH - Apostles' Creed

LBW p. 65

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LBW p. 76

Holy Father, as winter months bring colder temperatures in many parts of the world, work through your faithful people to care for those who are without adequate shelter. You are our dwelling place in all generations and we trust that you will provide shelter for the homeless, warmth for the cold, and food for the hungry.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

Creator God, all things wither and perish, but you are the source of life even out of death. Remind those who sit in deepest gloom and despair that they are not beyond the reach of your love. Speak your word of hope and reconciliation to those people in your world who abide in dark valleys of division, despair, and tyranny. Bring all people to the light of your joyous peace.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

Faithful God, you called John to prepare the way for Jesus, and you call each of us to do the same. Be with all the baptized, that we would continue to be strengthened through Word and Sacrament, attend to our relationship with you, and be bold in our proclamation of your saving love and desire for all people to know you. Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

God of all comfort, strengthen all those who are weary and suffering that they might be renewed by your Holy Word, [especially those we name to you now. . .]

Guide your church to speak words of grace, mercy, and hope into a world wracked with pain and angst.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

LBW p.76

OFFERING

CLOSING RESPONSIVE READING

(The Song of Mary, when she visited her cousin Elizabeth after the angel Gabriel had appeared to her - traditionally called "The Magnificat")

P And Mary said,

C "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

P for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

C Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

P He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

C He has shown strength with his arm; He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

P He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

C He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

P He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
C according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham,
and to his descendants forever.”

P Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
C as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. AMEN

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

CLOSING SONG: “Hark, the Glad Sound!”

LBW 35

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God!

Church Office: (815) 522-3886

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Secretary: Dianna Wittwer (815) 378-6654(c)

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Pianist: Nancy Plote

Host: Jack & Josh Sunderlage

Attendance last Saturday, 12/2:10

Last Sunday, 12/3: 38 adults 15 children

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!

Carl Nelson 12/12

Elda Bruning 12/12 “85”

Everly Mielke 12/14/17

Jane Johnson 12/16

Please join us tomorrow after the service to celebrate **Elda Bruning’s birthday!** Cake reception will be served in the fellowship hall.



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Join us tomorrow for the children’s Christmas program.

ARCHIVES

Tomorrow is the last day to select from the extra archive materials that are in the narthex. Connie Worden will be removing them after Dec. 10th.



If any member or students are interested in playing as part of the prelude for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Please let Pastor Tom know. (716) 990-6244.

SOCKS BOX

The Lydia Circle will be collecting NEW, WHITE socks for men in need at Rockford Rescue Mission or other shelters. The socks are due to the church by Sunday, December 17th. Please place them in the "SOCKS BOX" in the Narthex.



NALC ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

This year the theme is *Echoes & Epiphanies*. There are a few copies in the narthex, or you can read the daily devotionals from the website. Go to the website www.thenalc.org. You will be able to download a copy to your computer.



CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL GARDEN

Poinsettias for our Christmas Memorial Garden are ready to order. Only 20 plants are available and will be sold on a first come, first serve basis, so **please order early**. They are \$10 each. There are forms and envelopes in the narthex. The filled forms may be placed into the offering plate or on Dianna's desk. Orders are due Sunday, Dec. 17th.

END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS: If you would like to make a year-end contribution for 2023, please have it into the church office on Thursday, Dec. 28 by noon. If you have any questions, please call Dianna Wittwer at the church office (815) 522-3886 or on my personal cell (815) 378-6654.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANNUAL MEETING: SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024

Reports due to Dianna on Thursday, Jan. 4th.
Booklets will be ready Jan. 13th.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday 12/10: Join us after the service in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate Elda Bruning's "85th" birthday! Adult Forum to follow.

Tuesday 12/12: Food Pantry Set-up, 9:30-11am; dist., 12-2pm.

NO COUNCIL MEETING.

Wednesday, 12/13: NO On-line Bible Study.

Thursday 12/14: Wittenberg Door Pastor's Fellowship, 10am.

Saturday 12/16: Communion Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 12/17: Communion Service, 9am.

PARISH CONCERNS:

Please keep in your daily prayers all people in need, including those mentioned here:

- Beau Norris, age 11, will be having a cardiac procedure on Dec. 12th.
Beau is the son of Brad & Denise, and grandson of Val Norris.
- Shannon Daab is in hospice, she is the mother-in-law of Mark Boehmer.
- Fallon Mitchell, daughter of Chris & Shannon Mitchell was born Prematurely and will stay in the hospital. Shannon is at home, recovering. Fallon is Elaine Mitchell's granddaughter.
- Mike Johnson, nephew of Vernon & Jane, was in a car accident and must wear a neck brace. Praise God, no paralysis.
- Emmaline Haag is having some kidney health problems.
- All those who are suffering physical or mental illness, and their families, caregivers, and medical teams, especially Chuck Schindler, Ina Koehler, James Klus, David Sanderson, Jim Hetland, Susan & Jim Colgan, and Mark Bernhardt.
- Pray for pregnant women and the babies they are carrying.
- All those who are not able to worship with us because they are in health care facilities or homebound: Nancy Bakanas, George Vodden, Dale Johnson, and many others.
- All those who are affected by the Middle East unrest.
- Our church and its activities, and all Christian churches.
- All elected leaders, police officers, first responders, and military personnel, that they hear and receive God's guidance and protection.
- The NALC, NALS, the Great Rivers Mission District, and all Christian churches.